

## Hepatitis A is caused by the Hepatitis A virus (HAV)

<b>U.S. Statistics</b>	Estimated 25,000 new infections in 2007
<b>Routes of Transmission</b>	Ingestion of fecal matter, even in microscopic amounts from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Ingestion of contaminated food or drinks</li> <li>→ Close person-to-person contact with an infected person (household, sexual, child daycare)</li> </ul>
<b>Persons at Risk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Travelers to countries where hepatitis A is common</li> <li>→ Sex contacts of infected persons (certain sexual activities, such as oral-anal contact)</li> <li>→ Household members or caregivers of infected persons</li> <li>→ Users of illegal drugs</li> <li>→ Persons with clotting-factor disorders</li> </ul>
<b>Incubation Period</b>	Time between exposure and onset of symptoms: 15 to 50 days (average of 28 days)
<b>Symptoms of Acute (new) Infection</b>	One or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Abdominal Pain</li> <li>→ Vomiting</li> <li>→ Fever</li> <li>→ Gray-colored bowel movements</li> <li>→ Fatigue</li> <li>→ Joint pain</li> <li>→ Loss of appetite</li> <li>→ Jaundice</li> <li>→ Nausea</li> </ul>
<b>Likelihood of Symptoms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Less than 10% of children under 6 years of age have jaundice</li> <li>→ 40-50% of children 6 to 14 of age have jaundice</li> <li>→ 70-80% of persons older than 14 years of age have jaundice</li> </ul>
<b>Potential for Chronic Infection</b>	None
<b>Severity</b>	Most persons with acute disease recover with no lasting liver damage; rarely fatal
<b>Treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ There is no medication available</li> <li>→ Best supported through supportive treatment</li> </ul>
<b>Vaccination Recommendations</b>	Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ All children at age 1 year</li> <li>→ Travelers to regions with intermediate or high rates of Hepatitis A</li> <li>→ Men who have sex with men</li> <li>→ Users of certain illegal drugs (injection and non-injection)</li> <li>→ Persons with clotting-factor disorders</li> <li>→ Persons who work with HAV-infected primates or with HAV in a research laboratory</li> <li>→ Persons with chronic liver disease, including HBV- and HCV-infected persons with chronic liver disease</li> <li>→ Anyone else seeking long-term protection</li> </ul>
<b>Vaccine Schedule</b>	2 doses given 6 months apart